

COMMANDO



HAVE A SPOOKY HALLOWEEN

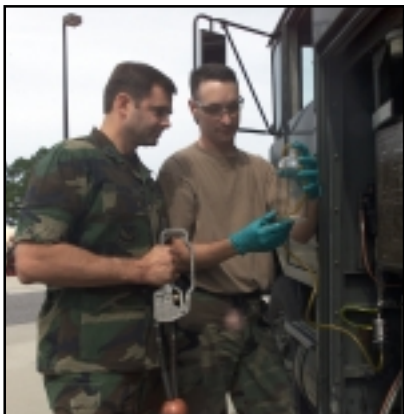
VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**.

I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Senior Airman James Albanesi, 16th Supply Squadron, shows Col. Lyle Koenig, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, how fuel samples are tested for quality.

Golf attire

Comment: Yesterday during my lunch break, I went to the golf course and changed out of my uniform and into sports attire so I could practice my putting and chipping on the putting green. Two other individuals with the same idea went to the driving range but stayed in uniform. Are people allowed to wear their uniforms while practicing at the golf course?

Reply: While most uniforms are impractical for wear while participat-

ing in sports activities, Air Force Instruction 36-2903 doesn't contain any prohibitions against wearing the uniform while participating in sporting events of short duration. Those people who choose to wear their uniform during break periods to bowl, play basketball, drive golf balls, etc., are permitted to do so provided they're in compliance with uniform wear requirements.

In order to promote physical activity as a means of stress relief and part of a healthy life style, the desig-

nated "no-hat" areas on base are being re-evaluated to permit this type of lunch alternative. Until changes are made, uniform wear in areas not designated as a "no-hat" area must be in compliance, to include headgear.

More speed signs

Comment: I'd like to know if there's any way to get a few more 35 mph speed limit signs installed on Independence Road. Currently there are only two signs. One just past the Autopride going east and another just past the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron compound going west. There's nothing in-between. The problem with only having the two signs is that people who aren't familiar with the base sometimes miss the signs, and because of it, drive 25 mph all the way around Independence Road.

I've noticed that Eglin Air Force Base's Eglin Boulevard has numerous 45 mph signs posted all the way around the road. I'm sure with all the upgrades and modifications being made on base, a few dollars spent on just two more signs wouldn't set us back too much. Thanks for a listening ear.

Reply: Good catch. We looked into your suggestion and Independence Road doesn't have sufficient speed limit signs to meet minimum traffic standards. Our 16th Civil Engineer Squadron will soon install additional signs. Thanks.

Make Halloween safe ... (So you can enjoy all those sweets!)

by Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Cube
Safety Office

Halloween! What a holiday! You dress-up, act like someone or something else and go door-to-door collecting free stuff. Wow! Who thought of this crazy holiday? Well, it all started a long time ago way back in the days of ... OK, I know, it really doesn't matter where it all started as long as your kids get some candy, you get some good photos and everyone has fun.

Every year millions of families step out of the house with a goal in mind: have fun and create special memories. Sadly, not everyone has a good time because they don't remember a few simple pedestrian safety tips. Here are a few reminders to keep your little spirits safe and on the right path this Halloween.

The National Safety Council reports that approximately 5,900 pedestrians are killed by automobiles every year, and 84,000 suffer nonfatal injuries. Almost one-third of these victims are children under the age of 15, yet they represent only about 15 percent of the U.S. population.

Bottom Line: children are at risk, especially trick-or-treating after dark. Make sure your children understand these basic pedestrian rules:

Stop, look, wait and walk. Stay away and watch.

○ **Stop** at the curb before entering the street

○ **Look** left-right-left for moving cars

○ **Wait** for proper traffic signals and until the street is clear

○ **Walk**, don't run, when crossing the street

○ **Stay away** from parked cars, and never run between them

○ **Watch** for signs that a car is about to move

Parents should know some rules, too:

○ **Be seen** – Dress your children to be seen. Wear reflective clothing, carry glow sticks or necklaces, and carry flashlights.

○ **Make it fit** – Make it easier for kids to get around safely – make sure the costume fits. They should be able to walk without tripping over their costume and not be over burdened with excessive amounts of weight.

○ **Walk; don't ride** – Halloween is best experienced on foot. There's enough traffic without adding to it. Bicycles should also be left at home. If you allow your child to ride his or her bike, make sure they don't wear a mask, and yes, helmets are still mandatory. At Halloween, as always, there's no replacement for responsible adult supervision. No matter how well you teach your children to be safe pedestrians, remember – they're still children.



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Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the **COMMANDO** is 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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About the cover

This week's special Halloween cover art was created by Senior Airman Andy Larson, a graphic artist with the 16th Communications Squadron Visual Information Flight. The AC-130U "Spooky" gunship pictured is the most advanced gunship today. The ghost is part of the symbol for the 4th Special Operations Squadron, which flies the Spookies.

News

CMSAF Finch pays visit to wing

by Staff Sgt. André Nicholson
Public Affairs

After flying with an AC-130 gunship and an MH-53 Pave Low crew, a full day of briefings, tours and speeches, the 13th chief master sergeant of the Air Force still made time to share his views with Hurlburt Field members.

From Senior NCO leadership to Stop-Loss issues, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch provided brief but insightful information.

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force, who travels to military bases throughout the year is able to see first-hand how Air Force members are dealing with the Sept. 11 attacks. While the world was initially shocked, he's seen people – not just in uniform – come together as Americans.

"I'm very proud of the men and women who've stepped up to this challenge. Not only Air Force members but all branches of the military, the Guard, Reserve and civilians have come to realize we're in this together, and it's very encouraging," he said.

Shortly after the terrorist attacks occurred, the Stop-Loss program went into effect, preventing some members from retiring or separating from the Air Force. He hopes people will understand why this needed to be done, and to have patience and trust in leadership to take care of them when it's over.

So far, the attitude throughout the Air Force has been positive, he said. Under-

standably, Air Force members have quite a few concerns and questions, he said, and sometimes what they don't ask is just as important as what they do. Many airmen want to know what they can do to get in the fight, and he explains they need to be prepared.

Completing their career development course training, getting qualified and becoming skilled in their jobs are very important, so when conflicts arise they'll be ready, he said.

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force, who's on temporary duty nearly 200 days out the year said troops concerns are what he discusses when he's out and about, and he shares those issues with senior leadership back in Washington D.C.

Senior NCOs should play a bigger role in their airmen's lives, he said. He believes Senior NCOs have to get out, walk around and talk with people. "They must stay involved and try to make a difference in the lives of their airmen."

"Ultimately I try to help leadership get the tools, training and support they need so everyone can do their jobs," he said.

With hundreds of jobs in the Air Force, he said, if people like what they do, and who they work with, then they'll want to stay with the Air Force. People need to feel appreciated and know what they do is



Photo by Staff Sgt. Diane Thomas
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch extracts a spent 105 mm shell while Staff Sgt. Don Borough, 16th Special Operations Squadron, reloads.

important to the big picture.

"One of the benefits of my job, is I get to travel around the Air Force and see how people do their jobs," he said. "Most people only see their part of the picture, but I'm able to see how it all works together."

He's pleased with the high caliber of airmen and junior NCOs he meets during base visits. It makes him proud to be a part of the Air Force team and especially here with Air Force Special Operations Command.

"My visit has been wonderful as expected, and it's allowed me to see Hurlburt Field capabilities more in depth through some talented and dedicated individuals."

The chief, who's on the road almost every week, said his ultimate purpose, "is to make the Air Force a better place tomorrow than it is today."

Spotlight on ...



John Blaeser

Name: John Blaeser

Rank/Duty Title: Staff Sergeant/Vehicle control function NCOIC

Organization: 16th Transportation Squadron

Hometown: Lakeland, Fla.

Hobbies: Softball, guitar, coaching and spending time with family and friends

Contribution to the mission: Sergeant Blaeser runs the vehicle control function section for the 16th TRANS fleet management office. He's responsible for more than 780 vehicles assigned to 34 squadrons on Hurlburt Field.

He trains unit members to protect Air Force vehicle assets on a day-to-day basis. The jobs consist of conducting staff assistance visits, vehicle technical inspections and conducting vehicle control officer and VCNCO training.

He played a huge part in the General Services Administration vehicle conversion by monitoring all incoming and outgoing vehicle assets and ensuring units received their GSA vehicles in a timely manner.

During the Operational Readiness Inspection, he filled in as chief dispatcher of vehicle operations and moved almost 2,000 passengers and 83 tons of cargo in less than a week.

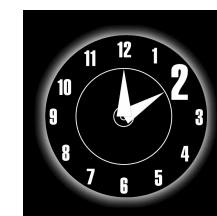
Straight from the Big Top

Staff Sgt. Mike Jordan, an instructor with Detachment 7, 373rd Field Training Detachment, and five passengers show their identification cards to Airman 1st Class Brodie Williams, 16th Component Repair Squadron, at the Hurlburt Field main gate packed a la the *Wringling Brothers* in his 1966 Volkswagen Beetle. Carpooling to work is highly encouraged and can help alleviate some of the sardine can-esqué parking conditions on base, in addition to other benefits. Commuting costs can be reduced by 50 percent or more by carpooling, which remains one of the most environmentally friendly alternatives to a single occupant vehicle. (Source: West Florida Regional Planning Council)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Time change Return to standard time



Turn
clocks back
one hour at 2
a.m., Sunday

AIR FORCE NEWS

*Remove decals
when vehicle is sold*

WASHINGTON – When selling a vehicle, some people only picture the money they're about to make. But, there's another picture people need to focus on: the potential effect that sale may have on installation security if the proper procedures for removing vehicle decals aren't followed.

If people don't remove their vehicle decals when ownership changes, the new owners could gain unauthorized access to base. Whether out of curiosity or with intent to cause harm, that access is unlawful.

Decals must be removed from a vehicle before possession is transferred to another person. The decals must also be removed when a person is released from active duty, separates from the service or terminates civilian employment with a military service or Defense Department agency.

If a vehicle is sold to someone authorized a decal then the decal must be transferred, said Master Sgt. David Veenstra of the 89th Security Forces Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

While decals don't have to be removed when people make permanent change-of-station moves, they must be de-registered and then re-registered at the gaining base.

If a decal needs to be removed, it won't peel off in one easy pull, Sergeant Veenstra said. The vehicle decals are specifically designed to break apart as an anti-theft device.

While this could make them difficult to remove, the sergeant said it's imperative that people do so.

Exact policies may vary from base to base. Some policies call for decals to be removed and destroyed, while others require the decals be removed and turned in to the issuing authorities.

Failure to follow decal procedures by servicemembers is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Title 18 of the federal statute for civilians.

For more information on vehicle decals, call the 16th Security Forces Squadron at 884-5233. (AFPN)

Humanitarian effort hits bull's-eye

WASHINGTON – Despite new weaponry used by the enemy, there are similarities between the president's campaign against terrorism and recent wars waged by the United States and its coalition allies.

As in previous battles, a new wave of patriotism has sprung out all over the homeland, similar to the days and weeks during which the Persian Gulf War was fought and won.

And, in what has become perhaps the signature development of wars waged by the United States, the humanitarian relief effort in support of the people of Afghanistan is in high gear, even as the bombs batter their oppressors. The ongoing operation closely parallels similar efforts in support of the Kurds in Northern Iraq and the masses of refugees displaced by the war in Bosnia.

C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and McChord AFB, Wash., delivered relief supplies – in the form of daily rations – into poverty-stricken areas of the besieged country as early as Oct. 7, delivering an average of 17,500 packages per plane. Each daily ration includes a carefully-designed, vegetarian meal that takes ethnic and religious concerns into consideration.

Col. Kip Self, part of the contingent of airlifters conducting the relief efforts, said everyone involved in the work is aware of its significance.

"The purpose of this mission is to help people," Colonel Self said. "Everybody I'm associated with who's working for me in this operation is truly motivated to do something positive for people."

That motivation, he said, goes far beyond what you'd find for the typical military mission.

"The crews come back late, and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Broussard

Aerial port people at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, use a K-loader to load containers with humanitarian daily rations onboard a C-17 Globemaster III Oct. 11.

you'd think they'd be exhausted," Colonel Self said. "But the adrenaline they have for stepping out there and getting to employ what they've been trained to do for so many years is remarkable. They're just excited. And when you throw in the positive aspects of this mission, they couldn't be happier."

The aircraft used for the airdrop missions carry about 10 crewmembers each time out, Colonel Self said, including not only aircrews, but physiological technicians and combat camera people as well. Despite the humanitarian aspects of the flights, each passenger is well aware of the risks involved. Each must rely on his or her training and professionalism to get the job done, he said.

"It's a very difficult mission, and the fact they are getting the job done makes them warriors in my eyes, regardless of what career field they rep-

resent," Colonel Self said.

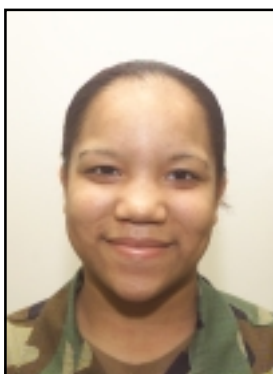
The crews doubled their efforts Oct. 12 when they delivered about 70,000 meals in one historic evening.

"That evening was the first time we conducted a four-ship formation of C-17s in a high-altitude combat drop of humanitarian supplies," said Col. Bob Allardice, airdrop mission commander. "It was significant because it took a tremendous effort to assemble four airplanes with all the supplies in one place and to fly the great strategic distances flown."

The effort was indicative of the type of team effort needed to make the humanitarian portion of Operation Enduring Freedom work, he said.

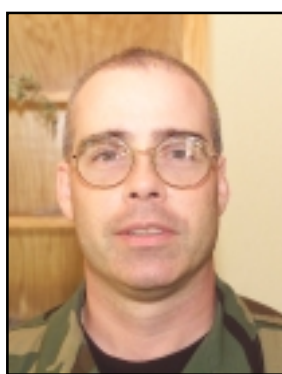
"It's marvelous to be part of a greater operation," he said. "We're delivering much-needed food to this operation, and at the same time keeping the Taliban at bay. It's amazing when everything comes together to implement national policy like this." (AFPN)

Look who's talking: What three things do you use to do your Air Force job that you can't do without?



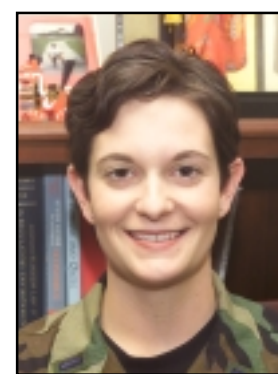
"The 36-series Air Force Instruction, a computer and a phone, because these are the three key things that I use to get my job done every day."

**Airman
Adrienne Johnson**
Air Force Command
and Control Training
and Innovation Group



"Great leadership, fantastic people to work with and a dependable computer."

**Master Sgt.
John Zimmermann**
16th Mission Support
Squadron



"1. 'Tounge and Quill' – a great guide if people would just use it 2. E-mail – people just can't seem to function without it. 3. A dictionary – I hate misspelled words."

**First Lt.
Brooke Johnson**
16th Helicopter
Generation Squadron

AFSOC reservist earns star in history

A Reserve officer, with Air Force Special Operations Command ties, has been nominated to the Senate for promotion to brigadier general.

Clay McCutchan is the individual mobilization augmentee to the commandant of Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. At AFSOC, Mr. McCutchan is the assistant historian for the command.

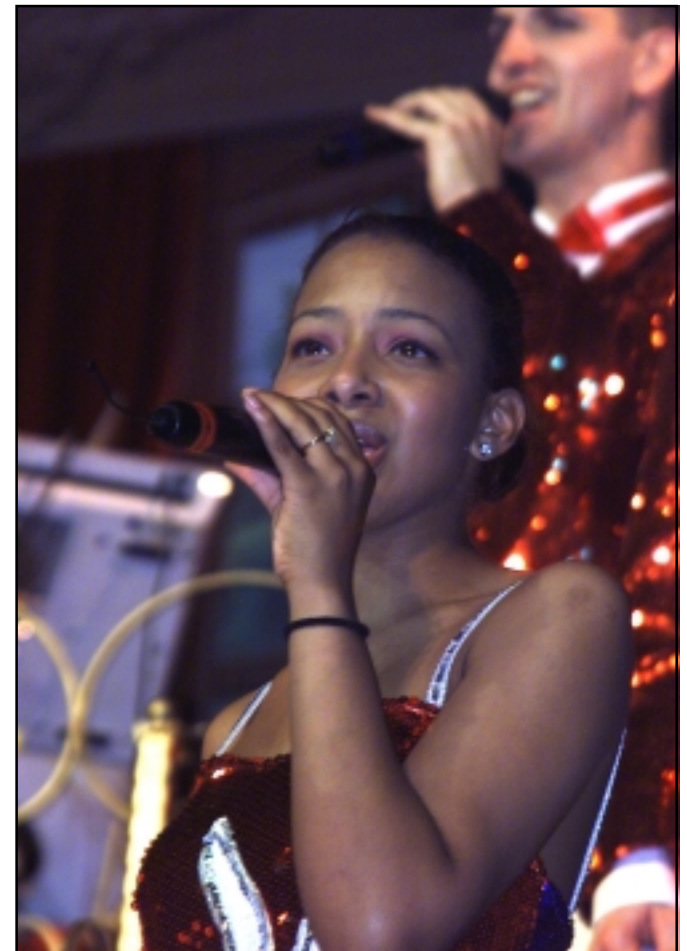
The brigadier general-select started his military career in 1972, and spent three years on active duty before transitioning to the Air Force Reserves in 1975. As a reservist, he spent 22 years at

Duke Field, Fla., with the 919th Special Operations Wing before relocating to Maxwell. He has been the IMA to the commandant for nearly a year.

As the IMA for the Air War College commandant, he serves as the Reserve advisor regarding the U.S. Air Force's senior professional military educational institution. He assists the commandant with issues regarding a staff of 150, who provide training to 250 resident, and more than 4,000 nonresident students annually.

Mr. McCutchan has served with the AFSOC history office for 11 years. (NFNS)

Communicating from the top



Courtesy photo

Airman 1st Class Kristina Robinson, a vocalist touring with Tops in Blue, sings in Washington, D.C., during the 2001 tour. Airman Robinson, currently assigned to Hurlburt Field's 16th Communications Squadron, has sung as the lead singer in an all-female quartet at Howard University, in night clubs and at social gatherings.

Catch the free action when Tops in Blue performs at the football field, behind the main fitness center, at 7 p.m. Thursday.



Air Force implements new drug testing software

by **Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor**
Public Affairs

Beginning Dec. 1, new Air Force software will be required for random drug testing, according to the Hurlburt Field Drug Demand Reduction Office.

With the current system, a person is prevented from being selected and tested more than once a month, said Jim Sanders, drug demand reduction office.

Under the new system, people have an equal chance of being selected on any given test day, and when tested, are placed back in the selection pool for possible selection the next test day. Although highly improbable, a member could be tested every test date.

In addition, the current system doesn't automatically reselect a member if he or she isn't available when initially selected, i.e., that person was on temporary duty, in leave status, on crew rest, etc. Under the new system, members who couldn't test for valid reasons will automatically be selected to test until they provide specimens.

"The drug screening process at the DCC won't be as quick as the present system since a computer will be used to print labels," said Mr. Sanders. "The operator must input the information from the member's identification card, and this will take longer."

He asks that everyone have patience with the new process.

"The entire Air Force is now required to use this system, so Hurlburt Field isn't in a vacuum for this new procedure," said Mr. Sanders. "A team of first sergeants has worked and coordinated this new process very diligently. As improvements toward expediency — geared toward customer service — are foreseen, the necessary changes will follow."

One major change is the drugs screened during testing, said Mr. Sanders. Now, all specimens are screened for cocaine and marijuana, and varying percentage of every 100 are screened for other drugs.

Under the new system, all specimens will be tested for what's termed "full panel." This includes amphetamines, (which include date rape drugs such as rohypnol or "roofies"), barbiturates, marijuana, cocaine, opiates, codeine, PCP and acid.

Another change being pursued for the near future involves lowering the cutoff levels for several drugs.

"The purpose of drug screening continues to be to deter the use and abuse of controlled and illegal substances by military personnel through a comprehensive drug-testing program," said Mr. Sanders. "This purpose supports the Department of Defense objective to provide a drug-free workplace and a mission ready fighting force."



Photo by Staff Sgt. André Nicholson
First Lt. Katie Hunter, 16th Medical Group, examines a microscopic urinalysis sample in the 16th MDG's lab.

TALCE airmen help save life of soldier

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Roy, a senior master sergeant with the 615th Air Mobility Operations Group here, has O-negative blood, which makes him a universal donor and an old hand at blood donation.

The pint he gave Oct. 10, though, went right into the veins of an Army soldier, helping to save his life.

Roy was just one of several people from a deployed tanker airlift control element who went into action to help a soldier critically injured when he was crushed between a humvee and a water storage trailer.

The soldier was marshalling the vehicle when he lost his balance and fell between the vehicle and the trailer, said Chris, a first lieutenant and the TALCE's operations officer.

The vehicle driver, who could still see

the driver's marshalling wands, continued to back up, accidentally pinning the soldier against the trailer.

As medics at the deployed location responded to stabilize the patient, TALCE staff – who are responsible for turning bare-bones airfields into working aerial ports – began looking for an aircraft to be used for a medical evacuation. They quickly identified a C-17 Globemaster III scheduled to arrive two hours later.

"Anytime you're dealing with anyone being injured, you work as quickly as possible," said D-Mac, a technical sergeant and the TALCE's ramp coordinator. "You know they have a family back home that's counting on you."

When the patient's condition worsened about an hour after the accident, the medics and deployed personnel team

identified Roy, who was catching some much-needed sleep, as the best possible donor.

"Of course, I said yes," Roy said. "It was something I could offer, and it was something he needed."

With the help of Roy's blood, the medics were able to stabilize the patient until the C-17 arrived, but the TALCE's work wasn't done yet. With aircraft engines running, the team had to unload the plane's cargo and prepare it for the medevac, all in austere, near-freezing conditions that Laurie, a technical sergeant and noncommissioned officer in charge of the TALCE's port operations, described as "Survivor" times three.

"They loaded him, shut the doors and took off," said Jim, the lieutenant colonel who serves as the TALCE commander. "I believe we saved his life by being there."

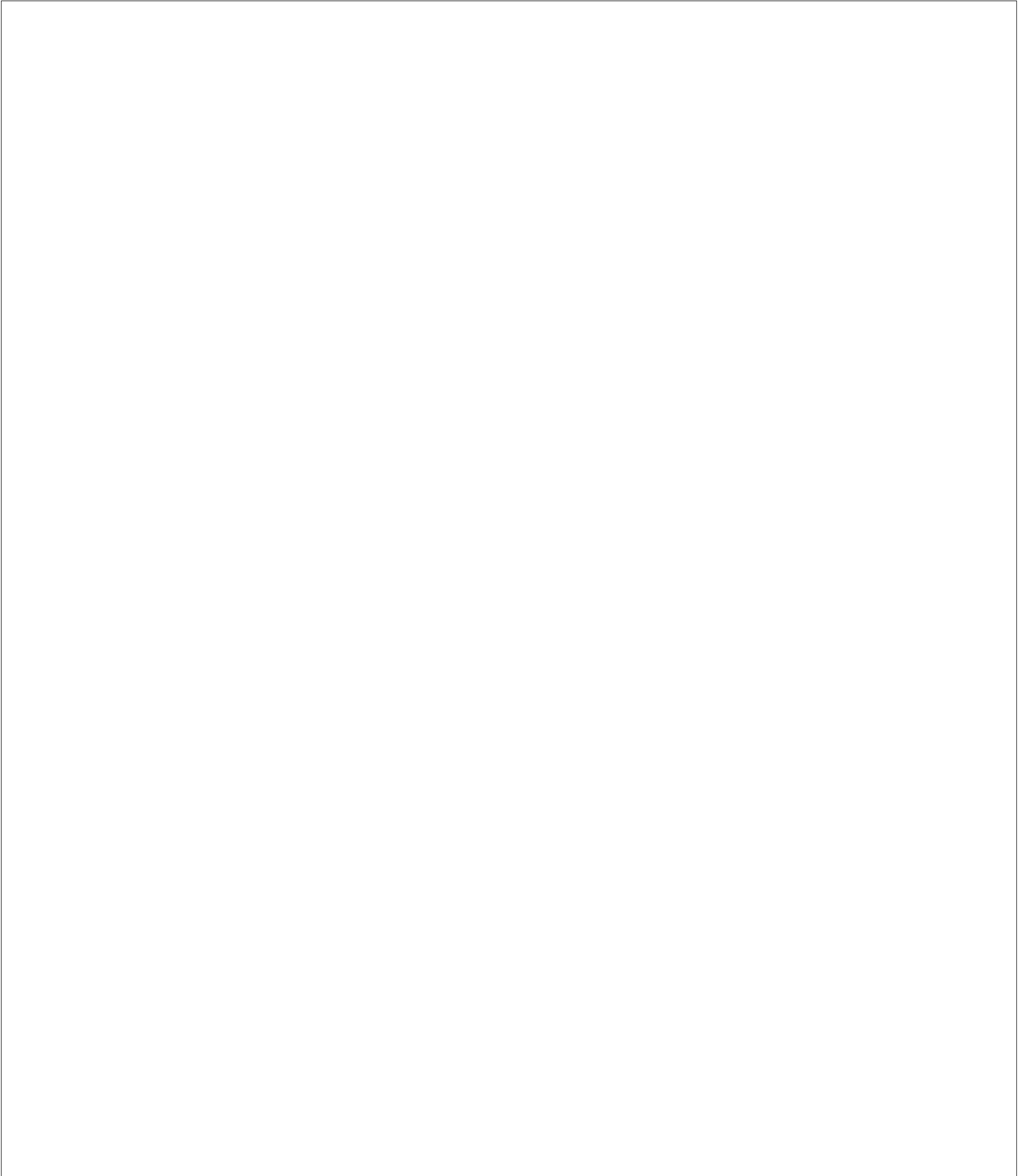
The C-17 left the airfield one hour after it landed, carrying the patient to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. He was later airlifted to the military hospital in Germany where he's now recovering.

The four squadrons of the 615th AMOG must be prepared to pack up and deploy at a moment's notice. They're usually the first Air Force people on the ground to set up airfield operations capable of handling mobility aircraft. The group has played a significant role in most major military and humanitarian relief operations in recent years.

"It's just a job that we do, and we're lucky to be the first ones called upon," said Gary, a technical sergeant and aircraft maintainer.

One could guess that a bit of that luck rubbed off on a soldier in need, hurt but not alone.







**Special
OPERATORS**

**Tech. Sgt.
Anita Howey**

Tech. Sgt. Anita Howey, Air Force Special Operations Command, NCO in charge of officer force management was step promoted to technical sergeant by Brig. Gen. Richard Comer, AFSOC vice commander.

Sergeant Howey is responsible for the command officer promotions program and works continuously with the Air Force Personnel Center, AFSOC, 16th Special Operations Wing, and off-base AFSOC leaders and units on promotion issues.

Bio-terrorism agents raise fear factor

Anthrax reminds people readiness is key

by Col. Mark Ediger
16th Medical Group
commander

The terror attacks on our nation are forcing communities around the world to confront the fear that such attacks could be directed at them.

The possibility of attack via infectious disease makes everyone particularly uncomfortable because the attack itself may not be readily apparent at the time it occurs.

Fear is rational under these circumstances. Our challenge isn't to deny fear but to control it and use it to spur us to rational and prudent action.

Our attackers are hoping we'll allow fear to drive us to particular behaviors that weaken our economy, our health care system, our military and our country in general.

Through rational and prudent

action, we foil our attackers and minimize the disruption to our mission.

Anthrax is a unique threat because this bacteria forms spores that can survive for years in a dry form at a wide range of temperatures. This characteristic simplifies the act of spreading the microbe with malicious intent.

On the positive side, the anthrax bacteria is sensitive to certain antibiotics. All of the anthrax bacteria from recent attacks tested to date have been sensitive to penicillin. Anthrax infection of the skin, the most common form, responds very well to antibiotics. Inhalation of over 8,000 spores can produce a much more serious illness, which also shows a significant response to antibiotics if started early. The key is to recognize exposures early and start treatment.

Prudent actions include following the guidance of law en-

forcement and public health experts. Their guidance on recognition and handling of suspicious packages is very important.

You should gently place a suspicious package in a plastic bag or cover it with something like an inverted trash can, leave the room and close the door.

If something has spilled out of the package, just put it down, leave the area, and close the door. Wash your hands and arms with soap and water and then call security forces.

If you can shut down the air handling system in the building, that's also recommended. Wait for security forces to arrive and assess the situation — there's no need to panic or seek immediate treatment.

We have time to make decisions about testing and treatment after law enforcement has assessed the situation.

Experts recommend treatment

only for verified or strongly suspected exposure to anthrax.

We can take some comfort in the fact that other potential bio-terrorism agents would be more difficult to deliver and require a delivery technique more evident to observers.

Such comfort must not lessen our readiness.

In general, we can each do our part to foil bio-terrorism by following the advice of experts, taking reasonable steps to reduce our risk, preparing for a community response and by not seeking personal supplies of medication for possible future use.

Preservation of antibiotics for those who truly need them is very important and avoiding unnecessary exposure to antibiotics is equally important.

With a reasoned approach we'll do our part to foil this threat and assure our mission capability.

LIFESTYLE

Military

Veterans Day cookout

American Veterans Post number 29, hosts a veterans day open house and cookout Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. There'll be free food for all active duty members. The post is off Highway 98 in Destin, behind Sexton's Seafood Market, 106 Benning Drive 2. For more information, call 837-1793.

Community

Trick or treat

Hurlburt Field's trick or treat night out is Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. for military and family members with identification only. Military parents are encouraged to wear their uniform. Members of the 16th Security Forces Squadron will be visible in all housing areas, wearing blue police vests, in case anyone needs assistance.

Tops in Blue

The Air Force's entertainment show, Tops in Blue, performs Thursday behind the Hurlburt Field Main Fitness Center on the football field at 7 p.m. Bleacher and chair seating will be available, but a blanket and jacket are recommended. The event is free for military members, family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and contractors. For more information, call 884-3821.

Civilian record update

The current cost comparison studies will generate a Reduction-in-Force or RIF action that may affect any employee serviced by Eglin Air Force Base. All Eglin AFB serviced employees should ensure their personnel records are up-to-date to include veteran's preference, appraisals, education and work experience. Compensation disability awards provided by the Veterans Administration are subject to review annually and may be changed either upwards or downwards. Therefore, veterans that have compensation disability awards from the VA must provide the civilian personnel office a letter from the VA dated within 12 months on an annual basis. The verification of these awards applies only to VA awards of disability. Information contained in the official personnel record is used to determine assignment rights through RIF procedures. Employees have until Dec. 28 to submit updated or additional information on an Optional Form 612, Application for Federal Employment. Supplemental information must be received in the CPO, 16th Mission Support Squadron/DPC, building 90210, room 134, Hurlburt Field, by close of business Dec. 27 to be considered in upcoming RIFs. For your convenience, if you require a career brief to review current information, call 884-5215. If you leave a message; speak clearly, spell your last name and give your Social Security Number. You may review your electronic OPF by visiting the Web site: afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc and click on electronic OPF. If access is denied, contact your computer systems administrator, 96th Mission Support Squadron, Eglin AFB at 884-3203 extension 266 or 16th MSS at 884-5215.

American Indian Month

The month of November is American Indian Heritage Month. Military members, spouses and civilians who'd like to serve on the committee should attend weekly meetings held Tuesdays at 3 p.m. at J.R. Rockers. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Lynetta Williams at 884-8746 or Master Sgt. Bryan Osborne at 884-6844.

Haunted woods

The 728th Air Control Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, hosts a haunted woods from 6 to 10 p.m. today and Saturday in the wooded area next to the 728th ACS. There'll be a play area for children. Donations are \$3 per person.

Readiness tips

The Family Support Center has the following services available for spouses and children separated longer than 30 days: family connections support and social group, family connections newsletter, deployment activity and coloring books and free literature. For more information, call the FSC at 884-5441.

Recycling picnic

The 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, the recycling center and Arrow Disposal sponsor a picnic for the residents of Commando Village Saturday at 11 a.m. The celebration includes free food and beverages, goodies for children and the unveiling of a commemorative park bench. The celebration is due to Commando Village's participation in the Hurlburt Field's Recycling Program June 1, 2000 to June 1, 2001. For more information, call 884-2886.

Asthma fair

Eglin Air Force Base's Pediatric Clinic sponsors an annual Asthma Fair Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eglin AFB Youth Center. Hospital members will be available to answer questions about the latest information related to childhood asthma. Also, a "Why I Will Never Do Drugs" essay contest will be held and essays should be received by 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Eglin AFB Pediatric Clinic. For more information, call 883-8577.

Golden Corral

Golden Corral restaurant hosts Military Appreciation Night, in support of Veterans Day. Nov. 12. Every Golden Corral restaurant across the country offers a free dinner buffet with choice of beverage to any veteran and active duty military member, who visit any Golden Corral. Members must identify themselves at the register when they go through the line.

Male chorus

Eglin Air Force Base's male chorus celebrates its 8th anniversary Saturday, 6 p.m. in the chapel center. Recording artists Perfect Praise Men of God will be present. For more information, call Philip Gregory at 884-6355.

Work study

Veterans Administration work-study students are needed to work five days a week 7 a.m. to noon or 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 884-6281.



Hurlburt Field Chapel (884-7795)

Catholic Masses

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:30 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:45 a.m. (praise &

11:15 a.m. (traditional),

Youth and Single Group Available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel 1

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111)

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.



Hurlburt Field (884-7648)

Friday and Sunday – (R) "Rock Star," starring Mark Wahlberg and Jennifer Aniston – Based on a true story, an office supply salesman moonlights as a musician in a tribute band. His life is changed forever when he's chosen out of the blue to replace the lead singer of his all-time favorite band, Steel Dragon.

Saturday – (PG-13) "The Musketter," starring Justin Chambers and Catherine Deneuve – D'Artagnan and his fellow Musketeers are poised for battle. These legendary men of action are sworn to fight duels and right wrongs. The Musketeers aren't only defying the powers that be in 17th century France, they're also defying gravity.

Eglin (882-1066)

Friday and Saturday – (R) "Jeepers Creepers," starring Justin Long and Gina Philips – After making a horrific discovery in the basement of an old abandoned church, Trish and her brother Darryl watch their routine road trip home from college turn into a heart stopping race for their lives. They find themselves the chosen prey of an indestructible force that relentlessly pursues them.

Sunday – (R) "Jay and Silent Bob," starring Jason Mewes and Kevin Smith – When Jay and Silent Bob learn that a "Bluntman and Chronic" movie is being made featuring their comic book counterparts, they drool at the thought of fat movie checks rolling in. But when the pair find that there won't be any royalties coming their way, they set out to sabotage the flick at all costs.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled play dates.)

LIFESTYLE

Community

Marketing yourself

A professional lecture sponsored by the Retired Officers Association for officers and senior NCOs, who plan to leave the service or retire in one to five years is Nov. 6, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the base theater. Spouses are welcome to attend. For more information, call Charlie Ray, at 884-6281.

NCOA

The NCOA sponsors a job fair Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Radisson Beach Resort in Fort Walton Beach. Military members and veterans are invited to attend. An NCOA mini resumé is required for admittance and can be obtained at the fair or from the NCOA Web site at: www.ncoausa.org.

Best base award

The Air Force Times sponsors a best base contest to recognize bases where living conditions, concern for members well-being and community spirit set the bar for

excellence. Readers can log on to: www.AirForceTimes.com/bestbase to vote in categories such as best family life, best singles life, best facilities and best community life. Runner-ups and individual category winners will be named in the Nov. 12 issue of Air Force Times. Interested people should participate on their own time, using their own computers. For more information, call the public affairs office at 884-7464.

Pass and registration

The visitor control centers at the main and east gates will issue base decals from 10 a.m. to midnight, Monday through Friday, effective immediately. The pass and registration office in building 90210 will continue to issue decals from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Beginning Jan. 1, people with expired decals will be subject to a traffic citation. The extended hours, combined with an early start on issuing new decals will help eliminate the year end rush. For more information, call pass and registration at 884-5233.

Appreciation day

The Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce hosts Armed Forces Appreciation Day, Nov. 3. There'll be a parade at 10 a.m. on Lewis Turner Boulevard, near the Okaloosa County Fairgrounds. Free food will be served

to military members and their families. Free admission is authorized with military identification, all others will be charged \$5. Performances include; Tops in Blue, the Okaloosa Walton Community College Choir, U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America, Rachel Fife, FWB Community Chorus, Emerald Coast Barber Shop Singers, Cheryl Jones and Company, VIVA Entertainers, Tammy Mixon, FWB High School Iwo Jima re-enactment, FWB Boogie Woogie Bugle Boys and Blue Star, High Steppers and Lee Greenwood. For more information, call 244-8191.

Sports

FSU versus Maryland

Information Tickets and Travel offers a trip to Florida State University Saturday for a game against Maryland University. The cost is \$45 and includes roundtrip transportation and game ticket.

Over-30 basketball

There's a coaches meeting Thursday at 2 p.m. in the main fitness center for the over-30 basketball teams. For more information call 884-6884.

FEATURE

**AC-130H "Spectre"**

Courtesy photos

Gunship history dates back to Vietnam Era

**AC-119 "Shadow"**

The variations and nicknames have changed over the past 40 years, but the AC-130 Gunship's mission of firepower remains the same.

Since the Vietnam War, the AC-130 has participated in numerous conflicts including Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Allied Force in the Balkans, as well as operations in Haiti, Bosnia and Somalia.

At the height of the Vietnam War, the AC-130 "Spectre" Gunship was deployed primarily as an interdiction weapon over the Ho Chi Minh Trail and was the leading truck killer of the conflict. A combination of 7.62 mini guns, 20mm Gatling guns, 40mm Bofors cannons, and 105mm Howitzers armed the Spectre gunship.

A suite of infrared, see-at-night television, radar and other sensors coupled to a computer driven fire control system made the AC-130 the most lethal gunship developed.

Battlefield illuminators and flares on the Spectre turned night into day. Teamed up with night escort fighter-bombers, they ravaged enemy lines of communication and transport. They were famous for putting sniper-like accurate fire on enemy targets within a few meters of friendly troops.

The side-firing gunship was developed during the early 1960s to provide long endurance, heavy surgical firepower on enemy targets. Based on a concept from World War II, and developed at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., the first generation gunship was the close air support AC-47 "Puff the Magic Dragon."

**AC-47
"Puff the Magic Dragon"****AC-130U "Spooky"**

These gunships were also called "Puffs," "Dragon Ships" and "Spookies." The Puffs and Spookies were normally armed with three .50-caliber machine guns or 7.62 mini-guns. Besides gunfire, gunships could also provide flares for battlefield illumination.

Many historians believe the AC-47 changed the course of the Vietnam War when they stopped the loss of friendly base camps during night attacks by the Viet Cong.

During the conflict in Southeast Asia, Senior Airman John Levitow earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on board an AC-47. Later generations of larger and more capable side-firing gunships include the AC-119 "Shadow" or "Stinger." The Shadow and Stinger were armed with more 7.62 mini-guns and 20mm Gatling guns, flares and battlefield illumination lights.

See-at-night sensors and fire control computers made the Shadows and Stingers lethal close air support and interdiction attack aircraft. An AC-119 crew earned the prestigious Mackay Trophy during Vietnam when they continued their onslaught against the enemy despite significant combat damage to their gunship.

AC-130 crews have earned several combat awards and the prestigious Mackay Trophy, Tunner Award and President's Award.

The latest model of the gunship, the AC-130U Spooky operates alongside the AC-130H Spectre.

Editor's note: Information provided by Air Force Special Operations Command History Office.

SPORTS



(above left to right) Brett Scudder, Air Force Special Operations Command, Shari Silverman, 16th Special Operations Wing and Randy Richert, AFSOC stand next to their racing bikes. (left) Team Air Commandos take an early morning run, (left to right) Brett Scudder, Thomas "T.C." Hoot, Operations Contracting Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Randy Richert and Shari Silverman. (bottom right) Shari Silverman is just a blur as she speeds her bike over some rough terrain. (bottom left) Randy Richert and Brett Scudder held kayak training sessions in preparation for their race.

Photos by Devon Ravine, Northwest Florida Daily News

Team Air Commandos race for new adventure

by Staff Sgt.
André Nicholson
Public Affairs

Five miles cross country, 12-miles of off road biking, a 2-mile canoeing excursion, another 3-mile bike ride and a 1-mile obstacle course. How about that to start the day?

Randy Richert, Air Force Special Operations Command, Brett Scudder, AFSOC and Shari Silverman, 16th Special Operations Wing, can speak about a morning like that from experience after completing the Panama City Hard Labor Creek Plantation Adventure Race, Oct. 6.

The team, which originally consisted of four members, including Thomas "T.C." Hoot,

Operations Contracting Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, had been training for months for another race that was cancelled.

Instead of letting all their

hard work go to waste Team Air Commandos put it to use in the adventure race.

Silverman said, the team finished 6 out of 30 teams and they beat all the "all male" teams.

